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MYCOLOGICAL BULLETIN

No. 39

*W. A. Kellerman, Ph. D., Ohio State University
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OM-PHA'-LI-A CAM-PA-NEL'-LA. BELL OM-PHA'-LI-A.—We have already commented briefly on *Omphalias* [see p. 150], quoting Atkinson's descrip-

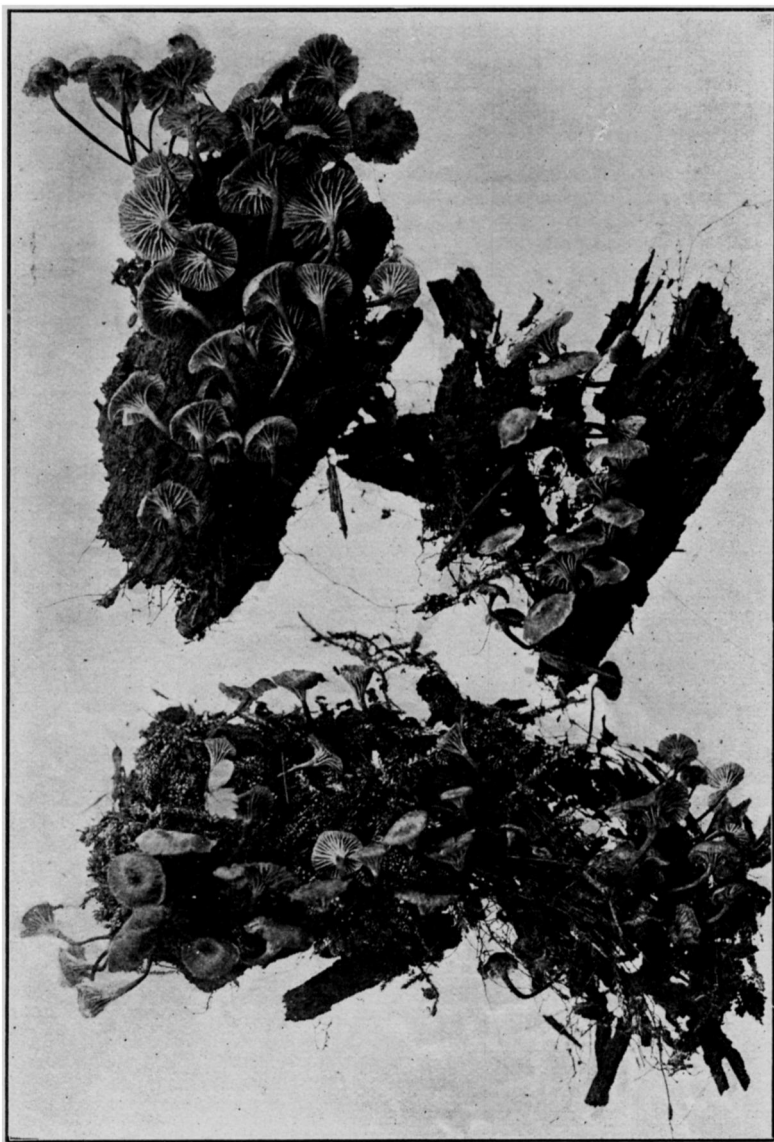


FIG. 126. OM-PHA'-LI-A CAM-PA-NEL'-LA. BELL OM-PHA'-LI-A. See text.

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tion of the genus. Additional remarks were made concerning the species on the same page. Besides, a half-tone representing the Umbellate Ompha'-li-a was shown on p. 152. We give here an illustration of the common Ompha'-li-a cam-pa-nel'-la, or Bell Omphalia—a charming little plant found on very rotten, wet logs in shady woods. It occurs throughout summer and autumn, often in enormous numbers spreading over an extended surface of its favorite matrix—a fallen, soggy, disintegrated log. The cap is convex and umbilicate, of dull reddish color or dirty white, having a watery appearance in damp weather.

LEP-I-O'-TA MOR-GAN'-I; MORGAN'S AGARIC.—This magnificent Mushroom was first collected by Professor Morgan; he sent it to Professor Peck, who named it as noted above. Though ordinarily placed in the white-spored section of the Agarics, it has pale *green* spores, as pointed out by its discoverer. The greenish spores and, when the plant is mature, the greenish gills in connection with its great size, readily identifies the species. The figures shown in this Number of the BULLETIN obviate the necessity of an extended description. It is pure white and often grows in huge fairy rings. It is a tempting subject for the amateur photographer. An additional illustration showing it in quantity in its natural habitat—especially as a fairy ring—is desired. The annulus is usually movable. As pointed out previously, the Lepiotas are botanically distinct from the Amanitas in not exhibiting a volva or sac at base of the stem.

It is shown in the two half-tones that the pileus is at first sub-globose or nearly globular; then it becomes expanded; in some old specimens it may be depressed. The usual size is six to eight inches high and five to nine inches broad.

IS LEPIOTA MORGANI POISONOUS?—McIlvaine says the only species of this genus known to be poisonous to some people is *Lepiota morgani*. Professor Stevens gave a detailed account of the symptoms of poisoning by this species, in the *Journal of Mycology* (Volume 9, pages 220-222). Vomiting and diarrhoea were severe. He says: The extreme violence of the symptoms produced by such a small quantity of the fungus makes one wonder what a meal of such might do! The conclusion of the whole matter is: exercise caution, and test with a small or moderate quantity if at all.

We close the comment by quoting, from *One Thousand American Fungi*, a statement by H. I. Miller: "I have recently measured several which were more than twelve inches across. . . . Six families, here have eaten heartily of them. The experience is that one or two members of each family are made sick, though in two families, who have several times eaten them, no one was made sick. I enjoy them immensely, and never feel any the worse for eating them. I doubt if we have a finer-flavored fungus. The meat is simply delicious. One fairy ring yields a bushel."

Professor Morgan says: "I am this season (1879) finding elegant specimens of this remarkable Agaric, which was described in the March number of the *Botanical Gazette*. One plant measures 11 inches across the pileus and is 8½ inches high; the bulbous base of the stipe is 2 inches in diameter, tapering upward to one inch; the heavy movable ring is situated above the middle of the stipe. It is a much heavier and stouter plant than *A. procerus* Scop., though not as tall. It is stouter than any of the *Amanitas* and with a much greater expanse of pileus. It reminds me somewhat of *A. maximus* Fr., though with a much longer stipe and a more regular pileus. I am disposed to claim that it is the largest Agaric in the world. The remarkable thing about the plant, however, and the feature by which it differs from all other *Agarics* and by which it is readily recognized is its *green spores*. When first caught on white paper, the spores of mature specimens are a beautiful bright green; they soon change, however, to a dull green."

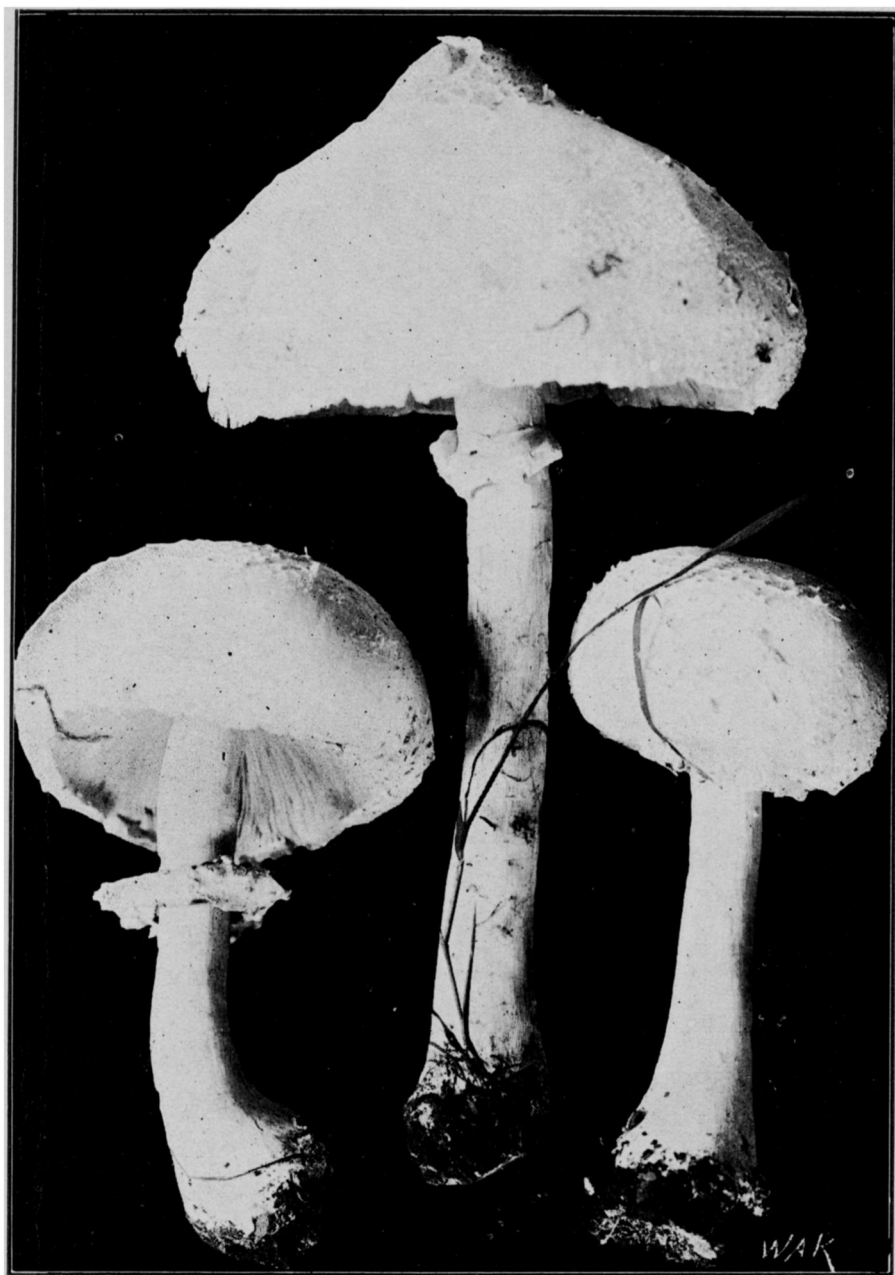


FIG. 127. LEP-1-O'-TA MOR-GAN'-I. MORGAN'S AGARIC. See text.



FIG. 128. LEP-I-O'-TA MOR-GAN'-I. MORGAN'S AGARIC. See text.

The *Mycological Bulletin* is issued on the 1st and 15th of each Month, Price 25c. Copies of Vol. II (1904) may be had for 50 cents each, or cloth bound copies for 75 cents. No copies remain of Vol. I (1903). Address, W. A. Kellerman Columbus Ohio.